

TRIBUTION

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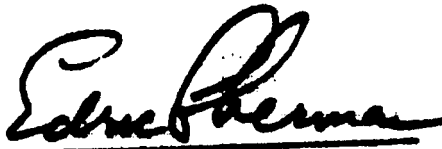
Situation Report No. 170

Lebanon Situation as of 0600 EDT, August 25, 1982

Military Situation: Beirut was generally quiet yesterday. Occasional bursts of gunfire in east and west Beirut were thought to be shows of exuberance over the election of Bashir or the "victorious" departure of the PLO. Apart from individual, isolated acts of reprisal against a number of deputies who attended the parliamentary session which elected Bashir, there are no signs that inter-factional fighting in Lebanon is imminent. Jerusalem radio claimed that fighting took place between Syrian and phalangist forces and that Syrians have taken phalangist posts in the northern Biqa valley. There are no indications available to confirm such clashes. Israeli forces appear to be concentrating against Syrian and Palestinian positions in the Biqa but Israeli spokesmen deny artillery exchanges between IDF and Syrians. An Israeli Army spokesman in Tel Aviv said that the IDF will clear citrus orchards for 50 yards on both sides of south Lebanon's coastal roads following repeated difficulty with an estimated 1000 Palestinian guerillas operating behind Israeli lines.

Diplomatic Developments: U.S. Marines came ashore at dawn in Beirut to be met by Ambassador Habib, the French and Italian ambassadors and members of the U.S.-Lebanese Liaison Committee. The Marines relieve French troopers in the port area. Italian Bersaglieri are landing this evening and, like the French, will take over positions outside the port area in accordance with Habib's plan. Habib continued negotiations with Israeli and other officials as the evacuation plan continued to unfold.


Ray Wach
Lebanon Working Group


E. Sherman
Senior Watch Officer

State Dept. review completed

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